

Probing The Axion-Electron and Axion-Photon Couplings with the QUAX Haloscopes

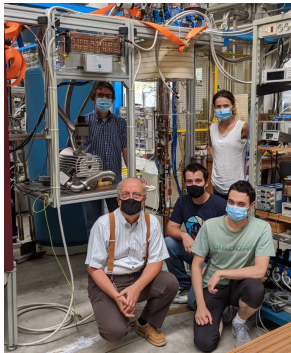
Lab @INFN-LNL

C. Braggio (this presentation), **G. Carugno** (lead), A. Ortolan, G. Ruoso

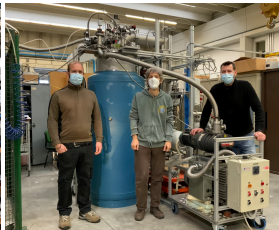
A. Lombardi, R. Pengo, L. Taffarello

PhD+PostDoc (2017-2020): N. Crescini

PhD (2018-2020): R. Di Vora



100 μ W at 100 mK



1 mW at 100 mK

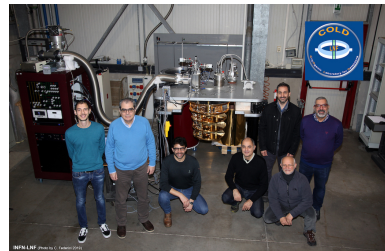


Lab @INFN-LNF

C. Gatti, D. Alesini, D. Babusci, D. Di Gioacchino, C. Ligi,

G. Maccarrone, D. Morriciani, S. Tocci

PhD (2018-2020): A. Rettaroli



@INFN-Salerno

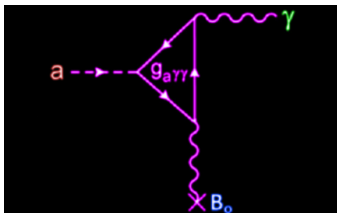
U. Gambardella, G. Iannone, C. Severino, D. D'Agostino

@INFN-Trento

P. Falferi, R. Mezzena

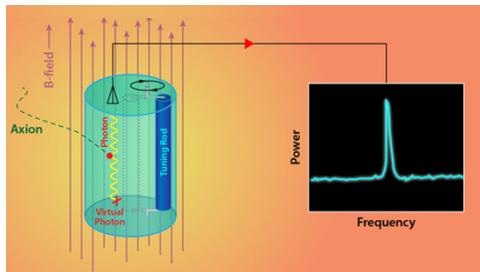
HALOSCOPE - resonant search for axion DM in the Galactic halo

- original proposal by P. Sikivie (1983)
- search for axions as cold dark matter constituent: SHM from Λ_{CDM} , local DM density ρ
 - signal is a **line** with 10^{-6} relative width in the energy(→ frequency) spectrum
 - + sharp (10^{-11}) components due to non-thermalized
- an **axion** may interact with a **strong \vec{B} field** to produce a **photon** of a specific frequency (→ m_a)



HALOSCOPE - resonant search for axion DM in the Galactic halo

– if axions are *almost monochromatic* then their conversion to detectable particles (photons) can be accomplished using *high-Q* microwave cavities.



- $\omega_{\text{TM}0nl} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{\epsilon_n}{r}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{l\pi}{h}\right)^2}$
TM_{0nl} are the cavity modes that couple with the axion
- resonant amplification in $[m_a \pm m_a/Q]$
- data in thin slices of parameter space;
typically $Q < Q_a \sim 1/\sigma_v^2 \sim 10^6$
- signal power $P_{a \rightarrow \gamma}$ is model-dependent

$$P_{a \rightarrow \gamma} \propto (B^2 V Q) (g_{a\gamma}^2 \frac{\rho}{m_a})$$

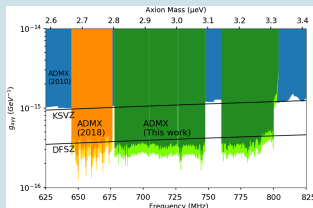
exceedingly tiny ($\sim 10^{-23}$ W)

“The last signal ever received from the 7.5 W transmitter aboard Pioneer 10 in 2002, then 12.1 billion kilometers from Earth, was a prodigious 2.5×10^{-21} W. And unlike with the axion, physicists knew its frequency!”

HALOSCOPES: 2020 RESULTS

ADMX

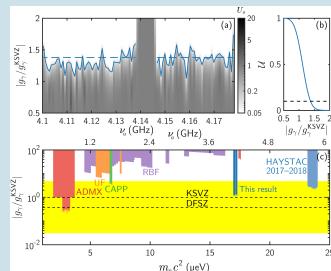
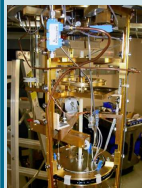
PRL **124**, 101303 (2020)



- sensitivity to QCD axion
- 2.82 – 3.31 μeV mass range
- cylindrical cavity at $T = 100\text{ mK}$,
 $Q_0 \sim 30000$, $V = 1361$
- 7.6 T field

HAYSTAC

arXiv:2008.01853 (2020)



- 17.14 – 17.28 μeV axion mass range
- **squeezing** doubled the search rate
- cylindrical cavity at $T = 60\text{ mK}$
 $Q_0 \sim 50000$, $V = 1.51$
- 8T magnet

“Roberto and I spent a few months cooking up this theory, and now the experimentalists have spent 40 years looking for it”

H. Quinn

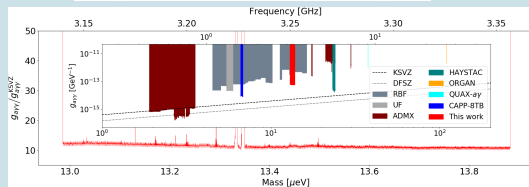
HALOSCOPES: 2020 RESULTS

CAPP

South Korea Institute

PRL 124, 101802 (2020)

PRL 125, 221302 (2020)

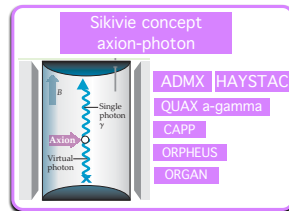
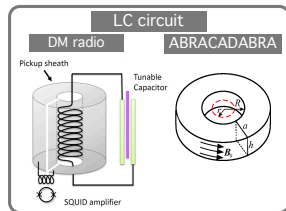
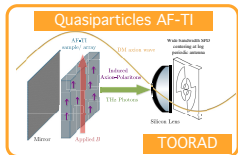
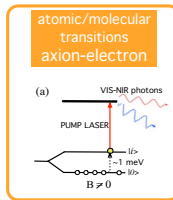
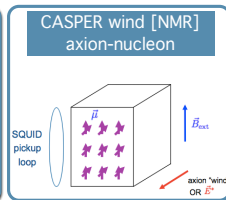
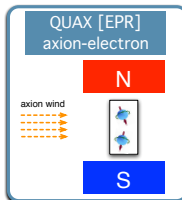
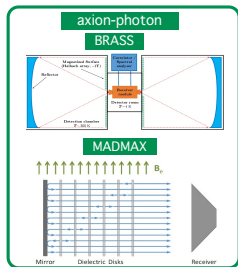


- multi-cell
- powerful magnets
- tailored cavities for high frequency

“Roberto and I spent a few months cooking up this theory, and now the experimentalists have spent 40 years looking for it ”

H. Quinn

HALOSCOPES: DEMONSTRATORS AND NEW PROPOSALS



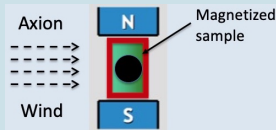
only a selection...

QUAX - QUADERERE AXIONS

Detection of cosmological axions through their **coupling to electrons or photons**

ELECTRON COUPLING – QUAX

the FMR haloscope

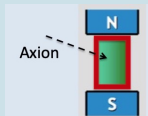


the axion DM cloud acts as an **effective RF magnetic field** on the electron spin exciting **magnetic transitions** in a magnetized sample (YIG) → **RF photons**

$$P_{\text{out}} = \frac{P_{\text{in}}}{2} = 8 \times 10^{-26} \left(\frac{m_a}{2 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ eV}} \right)^3 \left(\frac{V_s}{1 \text{ liter}} \right) \left(\frac{n_S}{10^{28}/\text{m}^3} \right) \left(\frac{\tau_{\text{min}}}{10^{-6} \text{ s}} \right) \text{ W},$$

PHOTON COUPLING – QUAX $a\gamma$

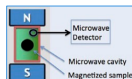
high frequency range (8.5 – 11) GHz



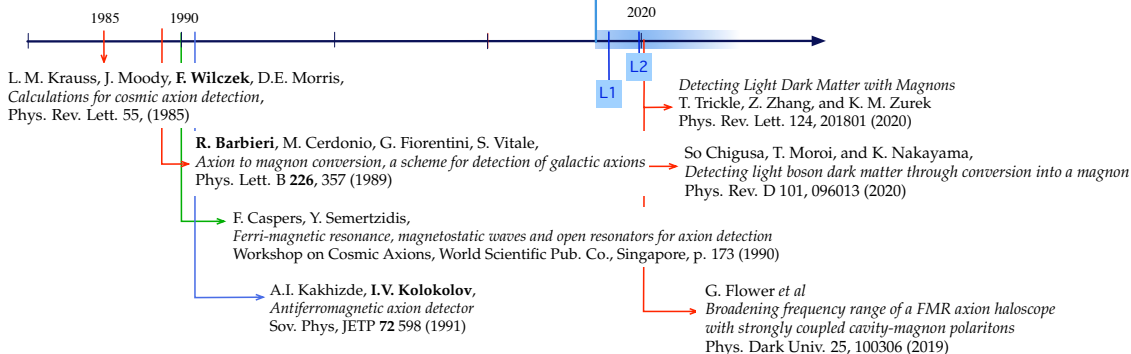
DM axions are converted into **RF photons** inside a **resonant cavity** immersed in a **strong magnetic field**

$$P_{\text{ax}} = 3.3 \cdot 10^{-24} \text{ W} \left(\frac{V_s^{\text{Sa}}}{2.3 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ m}^3} \right) \left(\frac{B}{8 \text{ T}} \right)^2 \times \left(\frac{g_\gamma}{-0.97} \right)^2 \left(\frac{\rho_a}{0.45 \text{ GeV cm}^{-3}} \right) \left(\frac{f}{13.5 \text{ GHz}} \right) \left(\frac{Q_L}{145 \text{ 000}} \right)$$

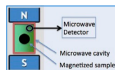
AXIONS AND MAGNONS



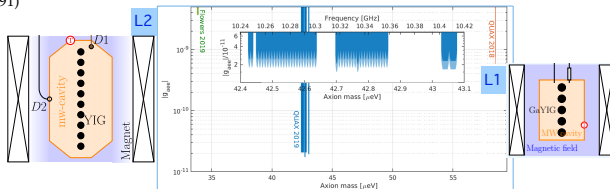
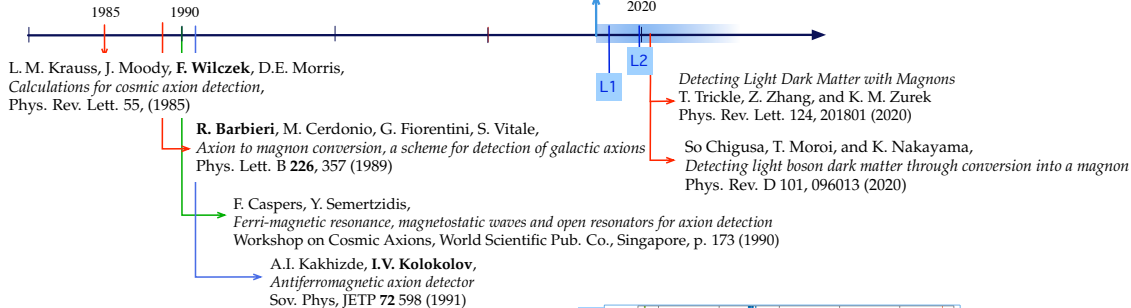
R. Barbieri et al.,
Searching for galactic axions through magnetized media: The QUAX proposal
Phys. Dark Univ. 15, 135 - 141 (2017)



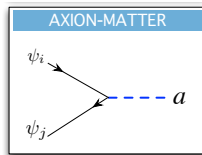
AXIONS AND MAGNONS



R. Barbieri et al.,
Searching for galactic axions through magnetized media: The QUAX proposal
Phys. Dark Univ. 15, 135 - 141 (2017)



Interaction of the axion with a spin 1/2 particle



$$\mathcal{L}_a = f_a^{-1} g_{aij} \bar{\psi}_i \gamma^\mu \gamma^5 \psi_j \partial_\mu a$$

DFSZ axion model coupling with non relativistic ($v/c \ll 1$) electron: equation of motion reduces to

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial t} = \left[-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 - \frac{g_p \hbar}{2m} \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \nabla a \right] \varphi$$

The interaction term is in the form of a **spin–magnetic field interaction** with ∇a playing the role of a **oscillating effective magnetic field**

$$-\frac{g_p \hbar}{2m} \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \nabla a \equiv \underbrace{-2 \frac{e\hbar}{2m} \boldsymbol{\sigma}}_{-2\mu_B \boldsymbol{\sigma}, \text{ } \mu_B \text{ the Bohr magneton}} \cdot \underbrace{\left(\frac{g_p}{2e} \right) \nabla a}_{B_a \equiv \frac{g_p}{2e} \nabla a}$$

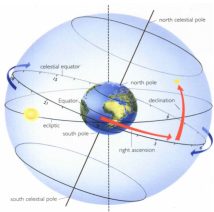
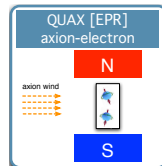
effective magnetic field

QUAX: AXION DETECTION BY RESONANT INTERACTION WITH e^- SPIN

The interaction term has the form of a **spin–magnetic field interaction** with ∇a playing the role of a

oscillating effective magnetic field

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\omega_a}{2\pi} = f_a &= \frac{m_a c^2}{h} \simeq 14 \left(\frac{m_a}{58.5 \mu\text{eV}} \right) \text{GHz}, \\ \underline{B}_a &\equiv \frac{g_p}{2e} \nabla a \quad \longrightarrow \quad B_a = \frac{g_{aee}}{2e} \sqrt{\frac{\hbar n_a}{m_a c}} m_a v_a \\ &\text{effective magnetic field} \\ &= 7 \times 10^{-23} \left(\frac{\rho_{\text{dm}}}{0.45 \text{ GeV}} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\frac{m_a}{58.5 \mu\text{eV}} \right) \left(\frac{v_a}{220 \text{ km/s}} \right) \text{T} \end{aligned}$$



EPR/FMR technique

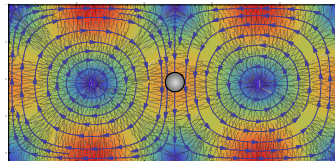
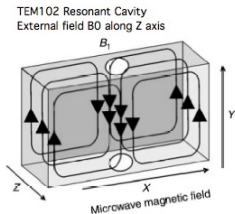
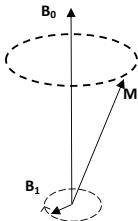
- material magnetized by a static magnetic field $\mathbf{B} \perp$ axion wind
- DM sensing when the Larmor frequency of the electrons matches the axion frequency f_a .
- B_a deposits in the sample the power P_a
- P_a gives rise to RF/ μ wave radiation \longleftarrow **axion signal**

THE EXPERIMENTAL TECHNIQUE: ELECTRON SPIN RESONANCE

Magnetic resonance (ESR/FMR) arises when energy levels of a quantized system of electronic moments are Zeeman split (\iff the magnetic system is placed in a **uniform magnetic field** B_0) and the system **absorbs EM radiation in the microwave range** at the Larmor frequency (ν_L).

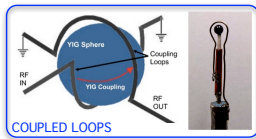
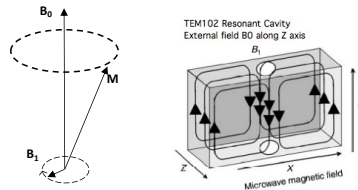
An experimental geometry with **crossed magnetic fields** is needed:

- ▶ B_0 along $z \rightarrow \nu_L = \gamma B_0, \gamma = 28 \text{ GHz/T}$
- ▶ a microwave field B_1 is applied to the xy plane
sum of two counter-rotating fields $2A \cos \omega t = A(e^{i\omega t} + e^{-i\omega t})$
- ▶ no resonance occurs when the AC field is parallel to B_0
- ▶ $\mathbf{M} \propto n_s$ is the magnetization density



BLOCH EQUATIONS - SPIN PRECESSION

The evolution of the electron spin under the influence of external fields is described by a set of coupled non-linear equations, modified to take into account **radiation damping**.



MATERIAL IN FREE SPACE

$$\frac{dM_x}{dt} = \gamma(\mathbf{M} \times \mathbf{B})_x - \frac{M_x}{\tau_2} - \frac{M_x M_z}{M_0 \tau_r}$$

$$\frac{dM_y}{dt} = \gamma(\mathbf{M} \times \mathbf{B})_y - \frac{M_y}{\tau_2} - \frac{M_y M_z}{M_0 \tau_r}$$

$$\frac{dM_z}{dt} = \gamma(\mathbf{M} \times \mathbf{B})_z - \frac{M_0 - M_z}{\tau_1} - \frac{M_x^2 + M_y^2}{M_0 \tau_r}$$

- τ_r **radiation damping**
- τ_1 longitudinal (spin-lattice) M_z
- $\tau_2 < \tau_1$ transverse (spin-spin) $M_{x,y}$

AXION DETECTION VIA ESR

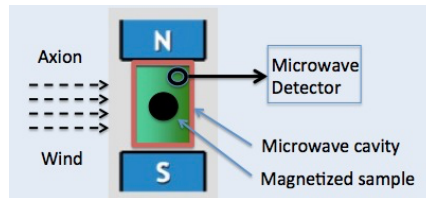
The axion wind substitutes the transverse field B1, inducing a **variable magnetization component** in the magnetic sample in the xy plane

$$M_a(t) = \gamma \mu_B B_a n_s \tau_{\min} \cos(\omega_a t)$$

τ_{\min} is the shortest coherence time among:

- axion wind coherence time $\tau_{\nabla a}$
- magnetic material relaxation time τ_2
- radiation damping τ_r

n_s material spin density, μ_B is the Bohr magneton



Magnetized material with volume V_s will **absorb energy from the axion wind** at a rate

$$P_{\text{in}} = \mu_0 \mathbf{H} \cdot \frac{d\mathbf{M}}{dt} = B_a \frac{dM_a}{dt} V_s = \gamma \mu_B n_s \omega_a B_a^2 \tau_{\min} V_s$$

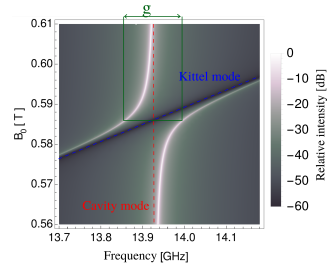
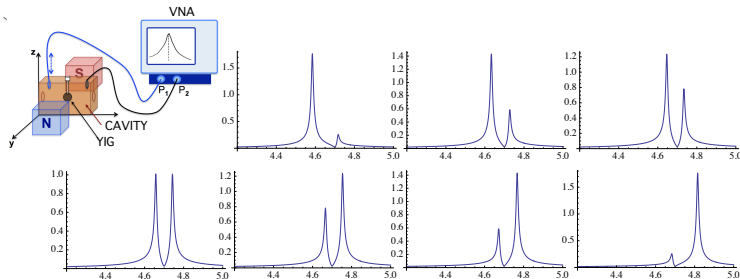
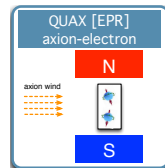
that will be re-emitted as electromagnetic radiation

RADIATION DAMPING ISSUE

at high frequency ($\gtrsim 10$ GHz) the signal is suppressed via τ_r term in free space ($\tau_r \ll \tau_2, \tau_{\nabla a}$)

RADIATION DAMPING AND STRONG COUPLING REGIME

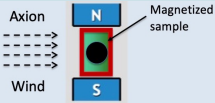
- magnetized material inside a microwave cavity
- strong coupling regime: two separate resonances with width $(\tau_c^{-1} + \tau_2^{-1})$
- when the $\nu_L = \nu_c$ the system hybridizes at maximum coupling
- axion detection is accomplished in one of the *hybrid photon-magnon modes*



EXPECTED SIGNAL

ELECTRON COUPLING – QUAX

NEW CONCEPT! *the FMR haloscope*



the axion DM cloud acts as an **effective RF magnetic field** on the electron spin exciting **magnetic transitions** in a magnetized sample (YIG) → **RF photons**

$$P_{\text{out}} = \frac{P_{\text{in}}}{2} = 3.8 \times 10^{-26} \left(\frac{m_a}{200 \mu\text{eV}} \right)^3 \left(\frac{V_s}{100 \text{ cm}^3} \right) \left(\frac{n_s}{2 \cdot 10^{28} / \text{m}^3} \right) \left(\frac{\tau_{\text{min}}}{2 \mu\text{s}} \right) \text{ W}$$

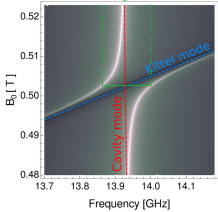
ESR (Electron Spin Resonance)
the RF field is actually the axion effective field
→ > axion mass tuning with B field!
1.7 T → 48 GHz

YIG (Yttrium Iron Garnet)

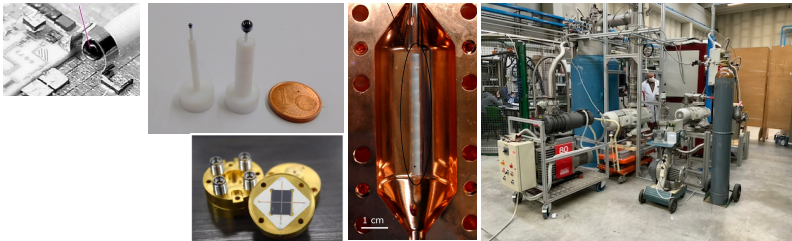
$$R_a = \frac{P_{\text{out}}}{\hbar \omega_a} = 1.2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ Hz}$$

corresponding signal photon rate
microwave photon counter is needed

$\tau_{\text{min}} = \min(\tau_a, \tau_c, \tau_2)$
under the condition of **strong coupling**



EXPERIMENTAL CHALLENGES



- magnetized material with **spin density** $2 \times 10^{28} \text{ m}^{-3}$ and **FMR linewidth** $\sim 150 \text{ kHz}$ ($\tau_2 \sim 2 \mu\text{s}$)
- necessary magnetized **sample volume** $\sim 100 \text{ cm}^3$ to be hosted in $\sim 50 \text{ GHz}$ frequency cavities
- $\sim 10^6$ Q-factor cavities in multi-Tesla magnetic field
- **ppm level uniformity** and high stability of the 2 T magnetic field
- signal detection beyond SQL with linear amplifiers \Rightarrow **single-photon microwave detectors**
- **100 mK** working temperature of the complete apparatus
- tunability with B field

EXPERIMENTAL CHALLENGES - MAGNETIC MATERIAL

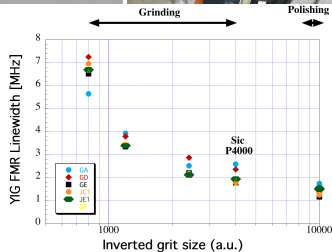
- magnetized material with **spin density** $2 \times 10^{28} \text{ m}^{-3}$ and **FMR linewidth** $\sim 150 \text{ kHz}$ ($\tau_2 \sim 2 \mu\text{s}$)
- tested several magnetic materials \Rightarrow low hybridization or too large linewidth

YIG – Yttrium Iron Garnet ($\text{Y}_3\text{Fe}_5\text{O}_{12}$)

- a ferrimagnetic synthetic garnet
- commercially available spheres (max 2 mm-diameter), linewidth not sufficiently narrow

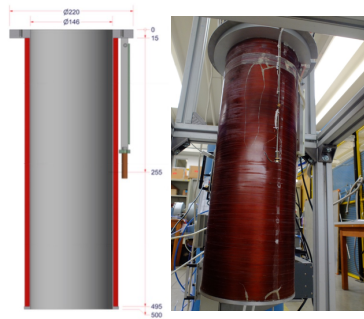
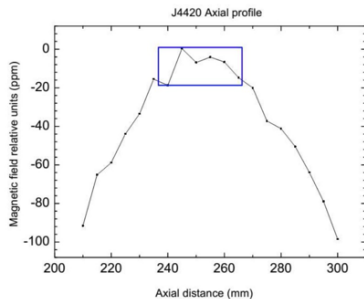
We have successfully developed a procedure to get **high quality YIG spheres**:

- ★ acquire high purity ($\lesssim 1\text{ppm RE}$) YIG single crystals of cm^3 size from manufacturers
- ★ large crystal is cut into cubes of 2.5 mm sides
- ★ grinding into 2 mm-diameter spheres using SiC abrasive paper of different grit size
- ★ polishing with Alumina based suspension



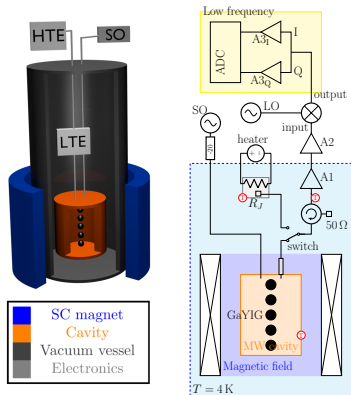
EXPERIMENTAL CHALLENGES - MAGNETIC FIELD UNIFORMITY

- Homogeneity at the ppm level is required to avoid inhomogeneous line broadening of the FMR resonance

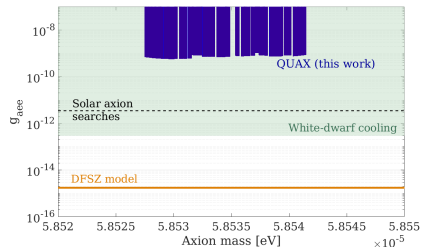
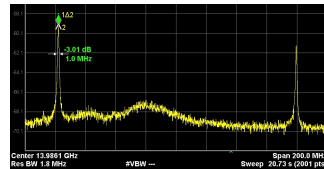


20 ppm over 1 cm, NbTi Superconducting coil
(solution from private company)

QUAX DEMONSTRATOR - 2018 LHe results



five 1-mm YIG spheres ($V_s = 2.6 \text{ mm}^3$)
 HEMT low noise cryogenic amplifier $T_n = 10 \text{ K}$
 $T_c + T_n = 15 \text{ K}$
 $P_{\text{in}} = (-4.6 \pm 22.2) \times 10^{-23} \text{ W}$



minimum measured value of
 $g_{ace} = 4.9 \times 10^{-10} \iff B_a \leq 2.6 \times 10^{-17} \text{ T}$
 N. Crescini, et al., Eur. Phys. J. C (2018) 78:703

QUAX LIMIT ON AXION-ELECTRON COUPLING

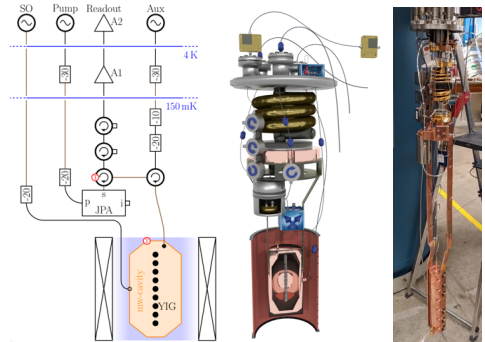
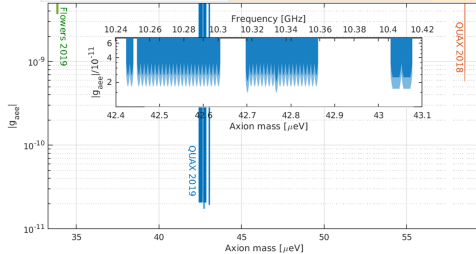
	QUAX 2018	QUAX 2019/2020	QUAX final
material volume	2.6 mm ³	46 mm ³	10 ⁵ mm ³
system total noise temperature	HEMT - 15 K	JPA - 1K	quantum counter
relaxation time	0.1 microseconds	0.3 microseconds	2 microseconds

EPJC 78:703 (2018)

first limit on g_{aee}

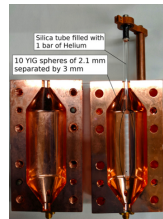
PRL 124:171801 (2020)

- first FMR haloscope with mass scan via B
- field sensitivity 5 $\cdot 10^{-19}$



MODELLING THE SYSTEM AND FREQUENCY TUNING

- new cavity at 10.7 GHz to match the JPC amplifier working frequency
- 10 spheres with max diameter 2.1 mm (selected out of about 20)



increasing the material

⇒ need for *improving hybridization control*

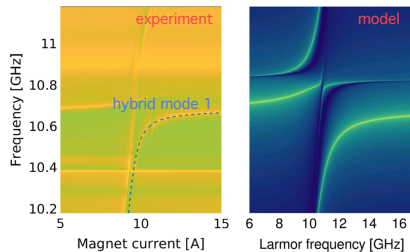
for the FMR haloscope hybrid system

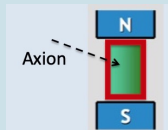
a model with **2 cavity** modes + **2 magnetic** modes works

- 10^{21} spins,
- coherent response by 10 spheres,
- material relaxation time 84 ns

→ **hybrid mode 1 is isolated**, use it to search for axion-induced signals

→ **by changing B_0 , axion mass scan** along the dashed line



REMOVING THE MAGNETIC MATERIAL FROM THE CAVITY: QUAX a- γ PHOTON COUPLING – QUAX a- γ *high frequency range (8.5 – 11) GHz*

DM axions are converted into **RF photons** inside a **resonant cavity** immersed in a **strong magnetic field**

$$P_{\text{ax}} = 3.3 \cdot 10^{-24} \text{ W} \left(\frac{V_{\text{eff}}^{\text{Sa}}}{2.3 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ m}^3} \right) \left(\frac{B}{8 \text{ T}} \right)^2 \times$$
$$\left(\frac{g_\gamma}{-0.97} \right)^2 \left(\frac{\rho_a}{0.45 \text{ GeV cm}^{-3}} \right) \left(\frac{f}{13.5 \text{ GHz}} \right) \left(\frac{Q_L}{145\,000} \right)$$

target: high frequency range (8.5 – 11 GHz)

+ stronger magnetic field (8 T+ correction magnet to reduce stray field on electronics)

✓ high-Q cavity in intense B-fields

✓ low noise receiver, del fridge operation

Strengths:

high-Q *hybrid cavities* - NbTi sputtered on copper

dielectric resonators



HIGH Q DIELECTRIC CAVITIES

normal conducting, Q_0 independent of B

PHOTONIC CAVITY

RSI 91, 094701 (2020)

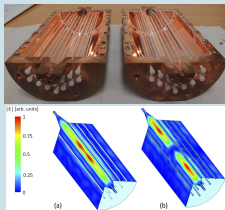
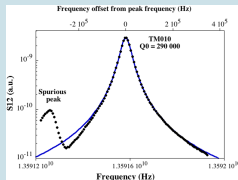


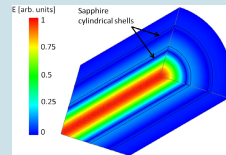
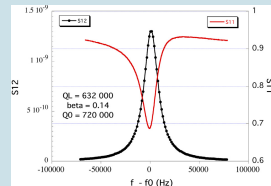
FIG. 2. Magnitude of the electric field of the first two TM resonant modes: TM010 (a) and TM011 (b).

- sapphire rods
- $T = 5$ K, $Q_0 \sim 290000$
- control of rods critical



NESTED CYLINDERS

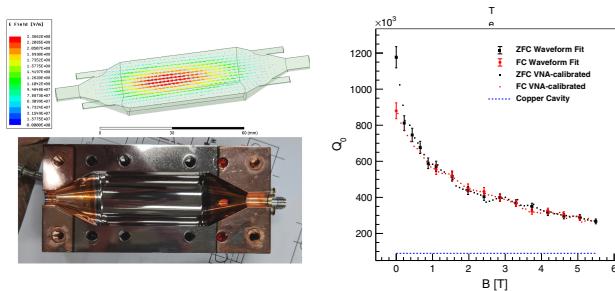
NIMA 985, 164641 (2021)



- hollow sapphire cylinders
- $T = 5$ K, $Q_0 = 720000$ (further improving...)
- cavity tuning by cyl. rotation

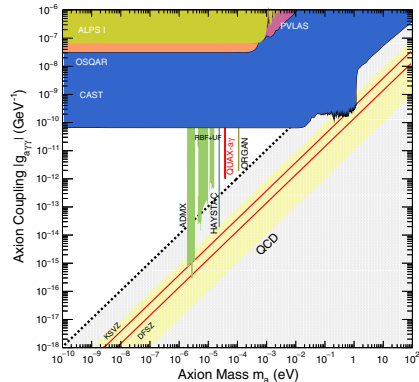
QUAX $a\text{-}\gamma$ LIMIT ON AXION-PHOTON COUPLING

- copper cavity with conical end-caps
 - two halves kept separated by lower conductivity material
 - NbTi sputtering in central cylinder
- (D. Alesini)

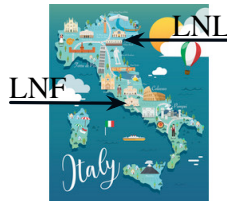


NEW! first test with JPA in 2020 reached a sensitivity of $3 \times$ KSVZ
in a sharp window \rightarrow [arXiv:2012.09498](https://arxiv.org/abs/2012.09498)

PHYS. REV. D 99, 101101 (2019)

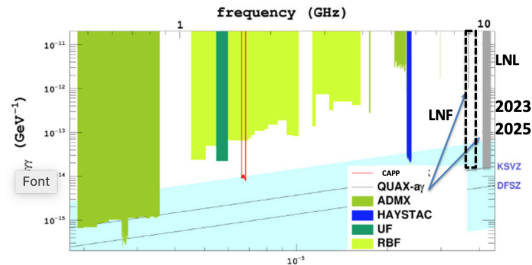


QUAX COLLABORATION ROADMAP (2021-2025)



- DM axion search (axion-photon coupling) by scanning **yet unexplored mass values** in the (8.5 – 11) GHz range
- **LNL** and **LNF** INFN laboratories will work in synergy, operating in **different mass ranges** and using **different low noise amplifiers and single microwave photon detectors**.
- strengthening collaborations with international groups for integration of
 1. state-of-the-art **itinerant microwave photon counters** (E. Flurin, Saclay)
 2. **traveling wave JPA** (N. Roche, Grenoble) in the receiver chain
 3. high-Q cavities (SQMS, Superconducting Quantum Materials and Systems center led by Fermilab)
- [R&D] increase the signal power in the **spin-based haloscope**. Such a detector could be crucial for the characterization of the axion models in case of discovery.

QUAX COLLABORATION ROADMAP (2021-2025)



S. Lee et al, PRL 124, 101802 (2020) m_a (eV)

Performance for KSVZ model at 95% c.l. with $N_A = 0.5$		
Noise Temperature	0.43 K	0.5 K
Single scan time	3100 s	69 s
Scan speed	18 MHz/day	40 MHz/day
Performance for KSVZ model at 95% c.l. with $N_A = 1.5$		
Noise Temperature	0.86 K	1 K
Single scan time	12500 s	280 s
Scan speed	4.5 MHz/day	10 MHz/day

	LNF	LNL
Magnetic field	9 T	14 T
Magnet length	40 cm	50 cm
Magnet inner diameter	9 cm	12 cm
Frequency range	8.5 - 10 GHz	9.5 - 11 GHz
Cavity type	Hybrid SC	Dielectric
Scanning type	Inserted rod	Mobile cylinder
Number of cavities	7	1
Cavity length	0.3 m	0.4 m
Cavity diameter	25.5 mm	58 mm
Cavity mode	TM010	pseudoTM030
Single volume	$1.5 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ m}^3$	$1.5 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ m}^3$
Total volume	7⊗0.15 liters	0.15 liters
Q_0	300 000	1 000 000
Single scan bandwidth	630 kHz	30 kHz
Axion power	$7 \otimes 1.2 \cdot 10^{-23} \text{ W}$	$0.99 \cdot 10^{-22} \text{ W}$
Preamplifier	TWJPA/INRIM	DJJAA/Grenoble
Operating temperature	30 mK	30 mK